at the Inter-Ministerial level. Steps have aslo been taken to transfer additional power from other grids to the DVC to the extent possible. Also a variety of measures which, *inter alia,* include renovation and' modernisation of the existing units and adding to the existing capacity through short gestation schemes have been undertaken.

As a long term measure and to reduce the dependence of steel plants on external power supply, additional captive generation capacities are being created by setting up a (3x60 MW) captive power plant at Bokaro Steel Plant and a (2x60 MW) captive power plant at Durgapur Steel Plant.

Refusal to issue visa to Agricultural Scientists of Philippines

3287. SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have not issued any Special visa to two Agricultural Scientists of the International Rice Research Institute of Philippines to visit Assam Agricultural University, Jorhat, in July, 1986; and

(b) if *so,* what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA): (a) Permission was granted by the Ministry of Home Affairs for two Agricultural Scientists of International Rice Research Institute to visit Assam vide their telex dated 28.8.86 to the Indian Embassy at Manila.

(b) Does not arise.

Panchayat elections

3288. SHRI ALADI ARUNA *alias* V. ARUNACHALAM: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state whether the Central Government propose to amend the constitution so as to institutionalise the Panchayat elections?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI RAMANAND YADAV): No. Sir.

Lift irrigation scheme in Andhra Pradesh

3289. PROF. C. LAKSHMANNA;
SHRI PUTTAPAGA RADHAKRISHNA;

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any Lift Irrigation Scheme of the Central Government to be implemented on river Krishna at Chinna Marrur village, Veepangandla Mandal - in Mahabub Nagar district of Andhra Pradesh with the aid of the Government of Netherlands; and

(b) if so, what is the present stage of the scheme?

THE MINISTER! OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) and (b) There is no such scheme of Government of India. However, the Government of Andhra Pradesh has proposed certain Subsurface and Surface Water Minor Irrigation Schemes for Netherlands assistance which include Lift Irrigation Schemes on river Krishna in' addition to four other river basins. Five districts, namely, Guntur, Kurnool, Mahabub NE,gar, Nalgonda and Krishna are proposed to be covered in the Krishna River Basin. The exact locations of the Schemes are yet to be finalised. The Planning Commission have sought certain clarifications to clear the proposal and these are awaited from the Government of Andhra Pradesh.